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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Second session
Geneva, 19 June 1991
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. By its resolution 45/212, paragraph 10, the General Assembly established "a special voluntary fund, administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to ensure that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, as well as small island developing countries, are able to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process". The state of pledges at the time of the first session of the Committee was recorded in the Committee's report (A/AC.237/6, Table 1).

2. By its decision 1/2, the Committee urged Governments in a position to do so but which had not yet done so to contribute to the special voluntary fund according to their possibilities at an early date, and expressed the hope that those which had already done so would make further contributions. It also urged the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, to contribute generously to the special voluntary fund.

3. A number of new pledges and several payments to this fund have been received since the Committee's first session, accompanied in some cases by conditions which are being clarified. The state of pledges and receipts is shown in the following table:

Voluntary Fund for participation of developing countries
(General Assembly resolution 45/212, paragraph 10):
Status of contributions as of 5 June 1991

Country	Pledge[1]	Receipt
Austria	$US65,000	
Canada	$Can 35,000 ($US 30,000)	-
Denmark		$US 100,000 23.04.1991
Commission of the European Communities	ECU 50,000 ($US 60,000)	-
Finland		$US 104,866.77 20.03.1991
France	FF 400,000 ($US 65,000)	-
Germany	$US 200,000	-
Japan	$US 200,000[2]	-
Netherlands	HFL259,500[3] ($US130,000)	
Norway	$US 50,000	-
Spain		$US 54,644.80 15.04.1991
Sweden		$US 86,058.51 15.03.1991
Switzerland		$US 210,896.31 10.04.1991
Turkey		$US 3,000 05.04.1991
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		$US43,312.50[3] 04.04.1991
United States of America	$US50,000	

Total received:	$US602,778.89
Outstanding pledges (approx. estimate)	$US850.000
Total funding in view	$US1.4 million[3]

1/ Figures in brackets are approximate equivalents in US dollars.
2/ To be paid from the Trust Fund for International Co-operation for Development, in connection with pre-INC seminars and training activities.
3/ Subject to clarification of conditions.

4. In accordance with Committee decision 1/2, paragraph 3, the Chairman of the Committee has conveyed an appeal for contributions to this fund to the executive heads of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Meteorological Organization.

5. In accordance with paragraph 5 of the same decision, some donors of bilateral assistance for participation in the work of the Committee have informed the Executive Secretary of their funding arrangements.

6. Before using this fund in connection with the second session of the Committee, the Executive Secretary obtained confirmation from the financial authorities of the United Nations Secretariat that delegates whose travel is paid from the fund may also receive daily subsistence allowance. In determining the distribution of financial assistance, the Executive Secretary has taken full account of the guidance concerning eligibility given in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/212 and in Committee decision 1/2. This guidance has been understood to require payment to all the least developed countries participating in the Committee, as well as selectivity among other developing countries, including "small island developing countries". The fundamental criterion of need for financing, or capacity to pay, has also been borne in mind, as has the level of funding available. Finally, it was necessary to adopt an easy criterion for expeditious action in the short time available between the release of moneys from the fund and the start of the Committee's second session.

7. Consideration was given to the possibility of funding two delegates per eligible country. However, given the amount of funding available, this would have made it difficult to extend funding beyond the priority category of least developed countries, and it was felt that it was not the intention of the General Assembly or of the Committee so to limit the funding arrangement.

8. These various considerations have led the secretariat to issue travel authorizations in advance of the second session to one delegate each from a list of developing countries which had a GDP per capita of US$1800 or less in 1988 (the latest year for which United Nations statistics were available). This list comprises 96 participating States; it includes all the least developed countries and most of the other developing countries having the other characteristics indicated in General Assembly resolution 45/212 and in Committee decision 1/2.

9. In addition, financial assistance has been offered to countries providing officers to the Committee, in order to ensure that Bureau members have no difficulty in participating in the Committee's work.

10. Further to Committee decision 1/2, paragraph 4 (d), assistance was also offered to the Caribbean Meteorological Organization which is, however, unable to participate in the session. The secretariat was informed that the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) received bilateral assistance to finance its participation.

11. It is estimated that the cost to the fund of these arrangements for the second session will be of the order of US$550,000, including provision for support costs at the standard rate of 13%.

12. The Committee may wish to give guidance to the Executive Secretary concerning the adequacy of the arrangements made in respect of the use of the fund for participation in the second session and concerning its future use.

13. Should similar arrangements be adopted for the third and fourth sessions, the total amount required for this fund in 1991 would be approximately $US 1.8 million, taking account of payments in connection with the first session of the Committee. If a further session were held in 1992, the total requirement would be correspondingly greater ($US 2.4 million). With this in mind, the Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to make the necessary contributions to the special voluntary fund.

II. TRUST FUND FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

14. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/212, paragraph 20, decided "that the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations". It also invited "the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including those in the field of development, to make contributions to the negotiating process, including its funding;" Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations were similarly invited "to contribute generously to the trust fund" (paras. 21 and 22).

15. At the time of the Committee's first session, a pledge to this fund had been recorded from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of £st 30,000 (approximately $US50,000). Since then, the Commission of the European Communities has indicated that it would divert to this fund part of the earlier pledge to the special voluntary fund for participation; the amount thus allocated is ECU 50,000 (approximately $ US 60,000). No other pledges have been made.

16. At the time of adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/212, the Assembly was informed that estimated costs in 1991 for staff and conference servicing in connection with the work of the Committee would be absorbed in the United Nations Programme Budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The administrative and budgetary requirements of the Committee's secretariat have been reviewed in the light of the work plan emerging from the Committee's first session. Emphasis has been placed in this review on the need to ensure adequate staff capacity to service two parallel working groups carrying out negotiations and drafting; to mobilize the effective participation of member States in the negotiations and promote awareness of the issues under negotiation; and to ensure timely and well-directed distribution of information concerning the negotiation process (see Committee decision 1/2, paragraph 6). In addition, provision has had to be made for costs other than those for staff and conference services, as foreseen by the Executive Secretary in his statement to the Committee at its eleventh plenary meeting on 14 February 1991 (A/AC.237/6, para. 69 - 70).

17. As far as the staffing of the secretariat of the Committee is concerned, the executive heads of the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, with the approval of their respective governing bodies, have undertaken to make available one professional officer each (a senior scientific officer and a legal officer). The World Meteorological Organization is also to provide two general service staff and the United Nations Environment Programme one general service post. The Government of France is arranging to provide an associate expert free of charge. Other staff, both professional and general service, will be assigned from other parts of the United Nations Secretariat or temporarily recruited.

18. It is estimated that provision for general operating costs, including temporary assistance, travel, equipment and communications, will total $US190,000 in 1991; and that consultant services and ad hoc expert groups, both required to widen the range of expertise available to the secretariat and to contribute to the substantive briefing of participating States, will require some $US90,000 in 1991. It is envisaged that similar amounts will be required in 1992, thus setting the level of the trust fund needed for these purposes at approximately $US560,000. Additional funding may be required for staff costs. These estimates do not provide for the travel costs arising from the Committee's session in Nairobi or from the signature of the framework convention in Rio de Janeiro.

19. The Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to respond to the need for contributions to this trust fund.

20. The Committee may wish to note that satisfactory arrangements are being worked out for the provision of administrative services to the secretariat of the Committee, including the administration of the two trust funds, under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Until such time as more permanent arrangements are made, these services will be provided by the UNCTAD secretariat, which has been extremely generous so far in facilitating the establishment of the secretariat of the Committee in Geneva. At the time of writing this note, it has not been possible to find a satisfactory solution to the problem of accommodating the secretariat in United Nations premises in Geneva. It is hoped that this matter will soon be resolved.

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Second session
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Agenda item 4

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SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

1. The information provided in the table on page 2 of document A/AC.237/8 has been supplemented by additional information received shortly before or during the session of the Committee. The status of contributions to the fund is as shown in the revised table attached.

2. Two delegations have provided information to the secretariat concerning their bilateral funding arrangements connected with support for participation in the work of the Committee, as follows:

a) Australia

AUD $ 135,000 (approximately US $ 105,300) provided to the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), of which AUD $ 100,000 (approximately US $ 78,000) for funding travel wholly or partly to attend meetings of the Committee, and AUD $ 35,000 (approximately US $ 27,300) for production and distribution of reports related, inter alia, to the Committee's work. (Allocation of travel funds to particular countries determined by SPREP.)

b) New Zealand

NZ $ 77,500 (approximately US $ 45,700) to enable attendance by Pacific Island countries at sessions of the Committee.

Voluntary Fund for participation of developing countries
(General Assembly resolution 45/212, paragraph 10):
Status of contributions as of 27 June 1991

Country	Pledge[1/]	Receipt
Austria	$US65,000	
Canada		$US 30,085.16 27.02.1991
Denmark		$US 100,000 23.04.1991
Commission of the European Communities	ECU 50,000 ($US 60,000)	-
Finland		$US 104,866.77 20.03.1991
France	FF 400,000 ($US 65,000)	-
Germany	$US 200,000 (1991-1992 50:50)	-
Japan	$US 200,000[2/]	-
Netherlands	HFL259,500[3/] ($US130,000)	
Norway	$US 50,000	-
Spain		$US 54,644.80 15.04.1991
Sweden		$US 86,058.51 15.03.1991
Switzerland		$US 210,896.31 10.04.1991
Turkey		$US 3,000 05.04.1991
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£stg 30,000 ($US 50,000)	$US43,312.50 04.04.1991
United States of America		$US50,000 18.06.1991

Total received:	$US682,864.05
Outstanding pledges (approx. estimate)	$US820.000
Total funding in view	$US1.5 million

1/ Figures in brackets are approximate equivalents in US dollars.
2/ To be paid from the Trust Fund for International Co-operation for Development, in connection with pre-INC seminars and training activities. Amount estimated for travel to pre-INC (II) events approx. $US 15,000.
3/ Subject to clarification of conditions.